

AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

and the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**

for the year 1960





AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

-----  
CHAIRMAN: Major G. Boyce, O.B.E., M.C., J.P. D.L.  
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

-----

Chairman: F.H. Hancock  
Vice-Chairman: E.A. Alliott

Councillors: Mrs. E. Bell  
Mrs. W. Corkish  
Mrs. L.M. Gibb  
W.A. Cummins  
O.E. Hansen  
H.R. Hoare  
F.W.E. King, M.B.E.  
J. Milliner  
S.E.A. Tunks  
W.D. Young.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health: F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Chesham Urban District Council, Beaconsfield Urban District Council, Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr. F.G. Caudery, F.A.P.H.I.,  
M.R.S.H.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr. W.E. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.,  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Mr. R. Powell, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
Mr. H.H. Cometsom, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
Mr. R. Charnick, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Clerical Staff:

Mr. T. Ball (Chief Clerk)  
Mrs. P.D. Birkhead  
Miss M. Deaney.

Rodent Officer:

Mr. H.A. Snapes.



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Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Amersham.....BUCKS.

August, 1961.

Tel. Amersham 565.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Amersham Rural District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1960.

The health of the district as reflected by the vital statistics and notifications of infectious disease has been very satisfactory. The birth rate is again the highest of the rural districts in the County.

It is a great pleasure to record the very satisfactory degree of co-operation which exists between this department and all the many other workers involved in maintaining and improving the health of the public.

Within the department it has been a year of excellent team-work. During the year I attended a course on the Public Health aspects of Civil Defence, and in the autumn, in company with the Public Health Inspectors, I attended night school to grapple with more nuclear physics. Both these courses were instructive and well run - both a very necessary addition to the training of your Public Health Officers in this nuclear age.

Comments are given throughout the report to amplify those matters considered to be of importance.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I.GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS1. GENERAL STATISTICS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Population.....                                 | 53,460   |
| Area (Acres) of District.....                   | 46,233   |
| Number of Habitable Houses (per rate book)..... | 16,675   |
| Rateable value of Area.....                     | £826,033 |
| Net product of a Penny Rate 1960/61.....        | £3,370   |

2. VITAL STATISTICS

|                   |              |                |              |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| (a) Live Births:  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate    ... | 520          | 478            | 998          |
| Illegitimate  ... | 12           | 25             | 37           |
| Total live births | 532          | 503            | 1035         |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| x Crude birth rate per 1,000 population.....                   | 19.4 |
| Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population.....                 | 18.6 |
| (Comparability factor 0.96)                                    |      |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total<br>live births..... | 3.6  |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (b) Stillbirths.....                             | 10   |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births. | 9.6  |
| Total live and still births.....                 | 1045 |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (c) Deaths:  |      |
| Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year).....                         | 12   |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....                 | 11.6 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate<br>live births.....   | 12.0 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate<br>live births..... | Nil  |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks<br>per 1,000 total live births).....                                      | 8.7  |
| Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under<br>1 week) per 1,000 total live births.....                                 | 7.7  |
| Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths<br>under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live<br>and still births..... | 17.2 |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion).....  | Nil  |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and<br>still births.....  | Nil  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| x Crude death rate per 1,000 population.....   | 9.3 |
| Corrected death rate per 1,000 population..... | 9.7 |

    (Comparability factor 1.04)

x The corrected Birth and Death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales.

Causes of Death:

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were - diseases of heart and circulatory system which caused approximately 50% of the deaths and cancer which caused approximately 20%.

|  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis (respiratory)              | 3            | -              | 3            |
| 2. Tuberculosis (other)                    | 1            | -              | 1            |
| 3. Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | 10           | 7              | 17           |
| 4. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus       | 11           | 4              | 15           |
| 5. Malignant neoplasm, breast              | -            | 12             | 12           |
| 6. Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | -            | 5              | 5            |
| 7. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms   | 28           | 25             | 53           |
| 8. Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | 2            | 1              | 3            |
| 9. Diabetes                                | 3            | 1              | 4            |
| 10. Vascular lesions of nervous system     | 23           | 52             | 75           |
| 11. Coronary disease, angina               | 52           | 36             | 88           |
| 12. Hypertension with heart disease        | 3            | 6              | 9            |
| 13. Other heart disease                    | 22           | 32             | 54           |
| 14. Other circulatory disease              | 10           | 9              | 19           |
| 15. Influenza                              | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| 16. Pneumonia                              | 24           | 17             | 41           |
| 17. Bronchitis                             | 13           | 3              | 16           |
| 18. Other diseases of respiratory system   | 2            | -              | 2            |
| 19. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum           | 2            | 3              | 5            |
| 20. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea     | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| 21. Nephritis and nephrosis                | 1            | 2              | 3            |
| 22. Hyperplasia of prostate                | 5            | -              | 5            |
| 23. Congenital malformations               | 1            | 2              | 3            |
| 24. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 12           | 32             | 44           |
| 25. Motor vehicle accidents                | 4            | 2              | 6            |
| 26. All other accidents                    | 5            | 2              | 7            |
| 27. Suicide                                | 2            | 2              | 4            |
|  | 241          | 256            | 497          |

Particulars of Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents)  
resulting in death.

There was a very gratifying fall in the number of deaths from accidents during the year, seven compared with twenty-three in 1959 - brief details are given below:-

| <u>No. Died</u> | <u>Type of Accident</u>                     | <u>Ages</u>         |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 5               | Fall  | 68, 74, 83, 75, 82. |
| 2               | Coal gas poisoning<br>(domestic gas cooker) | 85, 54.             |

| District          | Popu-<br>lation<br>Census<br>1951 | Reg. Gen.<br>Estimated<br>Population<br>Mid-1960 | Crude Birth<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>Population | Crude Death<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>Population | Tuberculosis<br>Death Rate<br>per 1,000<br>Population | Infant<br>Mortality<br>Rate per<br>1,000 Births | Neo-Natal<br>Mortality<br>Rate per<br>1,000 Births | Maternal Mortality<br>per 1,000<br>Live and<br>Still-Births |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|                   |                                   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |
| URBAN             |                                   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |
| Aylesbury         | 21,050                            | 24,410   | 19.3   | (472)  | 9.4   | (229)   | 23.3   | (1)   |
| Beaconsfield      | 7,913                             | 9,870  | 16.5   | (163)  | 11.4  | (113)   | 24.5   | (4)   |
| Bletchley         | 10,919                            | 16,680   | 20.1   | (335)  | 7.6   | (126)   | 12.3   | (2)   |
| Buckingham        | 3,942                             | 4,190  | 19.8   | (83)   | 9.1   | (38)  | 14.9   | (5)   |
| Chester           | 11,433                            | 15,010   | 23.6   | (354)  | 10.1  | (152)   | -  | (-)   |
| Eton              | 3,247                             | 5,190  | 13.5   | (70)   | 5.8   | (30)  | 19.8   | (6)   |
| High Wycombe      | 40,702                            | 46,330   | 20.5   | (951)  | 9.9   | (459)   | 0.07   | (1)   |
| Linslade          | 3,270                             | 3,770  | 21.5   | (81)   | 11.1  | (42)  | 0.19   | (1)   |
| Marlow            | 6,481                             | 8,160  | 22.3   | (182)  | 12.0  | (98)  | 0.09   | (4)   |
| Newport Pagnell   | 4,377                             | 4,620  | 14.3   | (66)   | 15.6  | (72)  | -  | (-)   |
| Slough            | 66,471                            | 77,410   | 18.4   | (1,426)  | 8.6   | (566)   | -  | (-)   |
| Wolverton         | 13,426                            | 13,190   | 13.7   | (180)  | 15.5  | (205)   | 0.05   | (4)   |
| TOTAL URBAN       | 193,231                           | 228,830  | 19.1   | (4,363)  | 9.7   | (2,230)   | 0.05   | (12)  |
| RURAL             |                                   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |
| Amersham          | 41,437                            | 53,460   | 19.4   | (1,035)  | 9.3   | (497)   | 0.07   | (4)   |
| Aylesbury         | 29,545                            | 32,710   | 17.7   | (580)  | 9.9   | (324)   | 0.03   | (1)   |
| Buckingham        | 9,422                             | 9,660  | 15.4   | (149)  | 9.2   | (89)  | -  | (-)   |
| Eton              | 43,143                            | 63,960   | 18.5   | (1,186)  | 8.5   | (546)   | 0.05   | (3)   |
| Newport Pagnell   | 13,823                            | 14,660   | 16.0   | (234)  | 12.0  | (176)   | 0.14   | (2)   |
| Wing              | 9,047                             | 8,900  | 16.7   | (149)  | 11.7  | (104)   | 0.11   | (1)   |
| Winslow           | 7,268                             | 7,870  | 15.4   | (121)  | 13.8  | (109)   | -  | (-)   |
| Wycombe           | 39,375                            | 49,160   | 18.8   | (924)  | 9.9   | (485)   | 0.02   | (1)   |
| TOTAL RURAL       | 193,060                           | 240,380  | 18.2   | (4,378)  | 9.7   | (2,330)   | 0.05   | (12)  |
| TOTAL COUNTY      | 386,291                           | 469,210  | 18.6   | (8,741)  | 9.7   | (4,560)   | 0.05   | (24)  |
| ENGLAND AND WALES |                                   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |
|                   | 17.1                              | 11.5   | 0.075  |  | 21.7  |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 15.6  |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 0.075   |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 21.7  |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 15.7  | (137)   | 0.11   | (1)   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 0.075   |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 21.7  |   |  |   |
|                   |                                   |  |  |  | 15.6  |   |  |   |

**NOTE:** In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, comparison of the numbers given in different series for the same purpose is not very reliable.

SECTION II.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.Hospital Services:

The Amersham Rural District is situated in the area of the High Wycombe and District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Medical Officer of Health is a member of the Medical Advisory and Cross Infection Sub-Committees of the Management Committee.

Hospitals Available for the District:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Tuberculosis           | - Berks & Bucks Joint Sanatorium,<br>Peppard Common. |
| General                | - Chesham Cottage Hospital.                          |
| "                      | - Amersham General Hospital.                         |
| "                      | - Royal Bucks County Hospital, Aylesbury.            |
| "                      | - War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe.               |
| "                      | - Chalfont & Gerrards Cross Hospital.                |
| Infectious<br>Diseases | -- Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.                     |

Laboratory Facilities:

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water and sewage effluent for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

Ambulance Services:

These services are administered by the County Council. The Amersham R.D.C. area is covered by the Amersham and High Wycombe stations.

Family Planning Association:

A clinic is held in the out-patients department at Amersham Hospital every Thursday at 6-30 p.m.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICENATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

| Districts Served     | Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurses | Telephone |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Amersham )           |  |           |
| Amersham Common )    | Miss P. Harper, S.E.A.N., S.C.M.,          |           |
| Chesham Bois )       | and Miss M. Inglis, S.R.N., S.C.M.,        |           |
| Coleshill )          | 7, First Avenue, Amersham. Amersham        |           |
| Winchmore Hill )     |  | 374       |
| Little Chalfont )    |  |           |
| Chalfont St. Giles ) | Miss M.C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M.,            |           |
| Seer Green )         | Q.N., Holme Lacey, London Road,            |           |
| Jordans )            | Chalfont St. Giles. Chal.St.Giles          |           |
| Three Houscholds )   |  | 413       |
| Chalfont St. Peter ) | Miss M.E. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M.,          |           |
| Gold Hill )          | Q.N. and Miss M.F. Vincent,                |           |
| "Kingsway", G.X. )   | S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nos. 1 and           |           |
| Chorley Wood )       | 3, Pennington Road, The Glebe, Gerr. X     |           |
| (Bucks Area )        | Chalfont St. Peter. 4030                   |           |
| Lee Common )         | Mrs. B.L. Fowler, S.R.N.,                  |           |
| The Lee )            | S.C.M., Q.N., 17a, Berkeley Chesham        |           |
| Chartridge )         | Avenue, Chesham. 591                       |           |
| Ballinger )          |  |           |
| Swan Bottom )        |  |           |
| Potter Row )         |  |           |
| Pednor Vale )        |  |           |
| Ashley Green )       | x Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M., Chesham     |           |
| Whelpley Hill )      | Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill, 8238            |           |
| Ley Hill )           | Chesham.                                   |           |
| Lye Green )          |  |           |
| Latimer & Chenies )  |  |           |
| Holmer Green )       | Miss I.M. Cobb, S.R.N., S.C.M.,            |           |
| Penn Street )        | Q.N., 8, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere,           |           |
| Penn )               | High Wycombe. Penn                         |           |
| Forty Green )        |  | 3327      |
| Knotty Green )       |  |           |
| Tylers Green )       |  |           |
| Little Hampden )     | x Miss J.D. MacDonald, S.R.N.,             |           |
| Little Kingshill )   | S.C.M., Q.N. Nurse's Cottage, Gt. Miss.    |           |
| Hyde Heath )         | Rignall Road, Great Missenden. 2071        |           |
| Little Missenden )   |  |           |
| Great Missenden )    |  |           |
| Hawridge )           | x Miss J.E. Fordham, S.R.N.,               |           |
| Bellingdon )         | S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Bungalow,            |           |
| Ashridge )           | Sandpit Hill, Buckland Common,             |           |
| Buckland Common )    | Nr. Tring, Herts. Choles.                  |           |
| St. Leonards. )      |  | 269       |
| Cholesbury )         |  |           |
| The Vale, Chesham )  |  |           |
| Prestwood )          |  |           |
| Gt. Kingshill )      | x Miss H.M.E. Coulson, S.R.N., Gt. Miss.   |           |
| Spurlands End )      | S.C.M., Q.N., Chestnut Cottage, 2209       |           |
| Heath End )          | Sixty Acres, Prestwood, Gt. Miss.          |           |

x These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

| <u>Centre</u>                    | <u>Location</u>   | <u>Sessions</u>                 | <u>Medical Officer attends</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Amersham Old Town.               | British Legion Hall,<br>Whielden Street.                      | 2nd & 4th<br>Tuesday            | 2nd Tuesday                    |
| Amersham New Town                | Community Centre,<br>Woodside Road, Amersham-<br>on-the-Hill. | Tuesday                         | Each Session                   |
| Chalfont St. Giles.              | Memorial Hall.  | 2nd & 4th<br>Thursday           | 2nd Thursday                   |
| Chalfont St. Peter.              | Tithe Barn, Swan Farm.  | Each Fri.                       | 1st & 3rd<br>Friday            |
| Chartridge.                      | Village Hall, Chartridge.                                     | 3rd Thurs.                      | Each Session                   |
| The Lee.                         | Youth Club Hall,<br>Lee Common.                               | 1st Thurs.                      | " "                            |
| Cholesbury-cum-<br>St. Leonards. | Village Hall,<br>Cholesbury.                                  | 2nd & 4th<br>Thurs.             | 4th Thursday                   |
| Great Kingshill.                 | Village Hall.   | 3rd Weds.                       | Each Session                   |
| Great Missenden.                 | Memorial Hall,<br>Station Approach.                           | 4th Weds.                       | " "                            |
| Holmer Green.                    | Village Centre.   | 1st & 3rd<br>Weds.              | 1st Weds.                      |
| Little Chalfont.                 | Little Chalfont Hall.   | 1st & 3rd<br>Monday             | Each Session.                  |
| Prestwood.                       | Village Hall.   | 2nd Weds.                       | Each Session.                  |
| Seer Green &<br>Jordans.         | Baptist Schoolroom,<br>Seer Green.                            | 1st & 3rd<br>Thurs              | 3rd Thursday                   |
| Tylers Green &<br>Penn.          | Parish Room,<br>Tylers Green.                                 | Last Weds.                      | Each Session.                  |
| Beaconsfield.                    | The Old Rectory.  | 1st & 3rd<br>Friday<br>2 p.m.   | Each Session.                  |
| Holtspur.                        | Congregational Hall.  | 1st & 3rd<br>Tuesday<br>2 p.m.  | 3rd Tuesday                    |
| Chesham.                         | School Clinic, Germain<br>Street.                             | 1st, 2nd<br>3rd & 4th<br>Friday | 2nd and 4th<br>Friday.         |
| Chesham<br>Pond Park.            | Community Hall,<br>Windsor Road.                              | 2nd & 4th<br>Monday.            | 2nd Monday.                    |

SECTION III.NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951Section 47:

Under this Section when persons :-

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention,

the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

During the year it was necessary to apply to a magistrate for such an Order. This was granted by the magistrate but fortunately did not have to be used.

The lady concerned was aged 88 years living in a bungalow of wooden construction, subject to a Demolition Order. She had been causing her General Practitioner increasing concern because of her periods of mental confusion, liability to fall, decreasing ability to give herself proper care and attention, and refusal to accept any form of help.

Due to the early notification of this case it was possible to visit the lady over a period of several days and to gradually gain her confidence. Her condition, however, continued to deteriorate and as she still refused any form of help, it was necessary to apply for a Removal Order. It is a great pleasure to report that in fact the patient never knew that an Order had been obtained as she agreed during a final attempt at persuasion to go into hospital voluntarily. This case is typical of several which were dealt with during the year, although with others it was not necessary to apply for a Removal Order.

There is one school of thought which doubts whether powers of removal should ever be applied for in these cases. This is an extreme view with which I would not agree. However, with early notification, and with full co-operation of all the workers in this field, it should only rarely be necessary to use these powers.

The pattern of such cases in this district during the last few years has been that of elderly persons of a very independent nature, who have usually worked until well past the usual retiring age, living alone, in property which they have for one reason or another been unable to maintain and whose health gradually deteriorates. They are rendered less capable of caring for themselves unless they can be persuaded to accept help and a vicious circle of further deterioration of health and capability speedily results.

Section 50:

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

During the year it was necessary to take action in one such case, the costs being recovered from the deceased's estate.

SECTION IV.PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.(1) NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are given below, together with comparative figures for 1959:-

|                         | Cases Notified |      |
|-------------------------|----------------|------|
|                         | 1960           | 1959 |
| Measles                 | 155            | 589  |
| Whooping Cough          | 12             | 3    |
| Scarlet Fever           | 36             | 46   |
| Pneumonia               | 12             | 22   |
| Meningococcal Infection | 1              | 1    |
| Poliomyelitis -         |                |      |
| (a) Paralytic           | -              | -    |
| (b) Non-Paralytic       | -              | -    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia       | 8              | 6    |
| Erysipelas              | 1              | 1    |
| Dysentery               | 5              | -    |
| Tuberculosis -          |                |      |
| Pulmonary               | 16             | 17   |
| Non-Pulmonary           | 5              | 1    |

Acute Poliomyelitis:

A case of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified in September. On further investigation the illness proved to be the result of a coxsackie virus infection, the patient having in all probability been infected abroad.

Scarlet Fever:

36 cases were notified during the year. Apart from a small outbreak in an infants school the cases were sporadic. The children attending the infants department were examined and nine had clinical evidence of an upper respiratory infection. Nose and throat swabs were taken from these children who were then excluded until the results were known. Two proved to be moderately heavy nasal carriers of B. Haemolytic Streptococci. They were referred to their family doctors and excluded for a week. No further cases occurred in the department following this action.

Dysentery:

A small outbreak of dysentery occurred in a Nursery School at the end of the Autumn term. Children with diarrhoea were excluded, and this action together the particular attention paid to personal hygiene of the children by the staff and the intervention of the Christmas holidays stopped the spread of the infection.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups:-

| Age<br>Periods<br>Years | New Cases   |   |                 |   | Deaths      |   |                 |   |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
|                         | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   |
|                         | M           | F | M               | F | M           | F | M               | F |
| 0                       | -           | - | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 1                       | -           | - | 1               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 5                       | -           | 1 | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 15                      | 1           | 2 | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 25                      | 1           | 1 | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 35                      | 1           | 1 | -               | 1 | -           | - | 1               | - |
| 45                      | 5           | 1 | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 55                      | -           | - | -               | - | 1           | - | -               | - |
| 65 and over             | 2           | - | -               | 1 | 2           | - | -               | - |
| Total                   | 10          | 6 | 1               | 4 | 3           | - | 1               | - |

(2) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION(a) Smallpox, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

By the age of 12 months approximately :-

77% of children had been vaccinated against Smallpox

75% " " " " " Whooping Cough

70% " " " " " Diphtheria.

These figures are satisfactory in view of the fact that a number of children do not complete their immunisations and vaccinations until their second year.

(b) Tetanus

A quite significant proportion of babies, school children and adults are now receiving protection against tetanus. This procedure is to be particularly recommended to individuals whose work or play involves the risk of the contamination of cuts or grazes with soil, e.g. farmworkers, gardeners, footballers, school children, etc.

(c) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination is provided at the age of 13 years by the School Health Department. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that 91% of parents took advantage of this scheme to protect their children against tuberculosis.

(d) Poliomyelitis

No separate figures for poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the district.

SECTION V.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Routine inspections and the work at the two bacon factories claimed most of the time of the District Public Health Inspectors, but a survey was made of the kitchen and canteen facilities of the Local Education Authorities' Schools, details of which are given later in the report.

The following is a summary of the Public Health Inspectors' visits during the year:-

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTIONGENERAL SANITATION

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Water Supply.....               | 42  |
| Drainage.....                   | 305 |
| Piggeries.....                  | 29  |
| Moveable Dwellings.....         | 398 |
| Vermin.....                     | 15  |
| Factories (Power).....          | 60  |
| Factories (Non-Power).....      | 12  |
| Workplaces.....                 | 5   |
| Outworkers.....                 | 9   |
| Refuse Collection/Disposal..... | 52  |
| Public Conveniences.....        | 8   |
| Clean Air Act.....              | 27  |
| Hairdressers.....               | 6   |
| Schools.....                    | 47  |
| Shops.....                      | 9   |
| Pet Animals Act.....            | 13  |
| Miscellaneous.....              | 160 |

1,197

HOUSING

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| House Inspections (Public Health Act).....      | 188 |
| House Inspections (Public Health Act) Revisits. | 280 |
| House Inspections (Housing Act).....            | 81  |
| House Inspections (Housing Act) Revisits.....   | 124 |
| Housing Applications.....                       | 134 |
| Improvement Grants.....                         | 921 |
| Rent Act.....                                   | 18  |
| Agricultural Act.....                           | 1   |
| Miscellaneous.....                              | 181 |

1,928

116

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Visits to Slaughterhouses.....                    | 722 |
| Other Unsound Food Inspections.....               | 137 |
| Food Preparing Premises.....                      | 83  |
| Food Hygiene Visits (Retailers).....              | 249 |
| Food Hygiene Visits (Cafes, Hotels, Schools etc.) | 144 |
| Dairies etc.....                                  | 50  |
| Section 16 Food and Drugs Act.....                | 30  |
| Licensed Premises.....                            | 42  |
| Miscellaneous.....                                | 47  |

1,504

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

|   |     |              |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Milk Sampling (including 5 Creams)..... | 249 |              |
| Water Sampling.....                     | 312 |              |
| Ice-cream Sampling.....                 | 124 |              |
| Egg Albumen Sampling.....               | 8   |              |
| Utensil Swabs (sets).....               | 60  |              |
| Ice Lolly.....                          | 1   |              |
|   |     | <u>754</u>   |
|   |     | <u>5,499</u> |

Summary of Notices servedInformal Notices:Statutory Notices:

Served: 60

Served: 1

Complied with: 33

Complied with: 2

One of the Statutory Notices complied with was served in 1959 and required the provision of new drainage and main water supply to each of 6 cottages.

The day-to-day complaints of housing defects were in the main dealt with by Informal Action, and the following is a summary of the defects remedied as a result of the above 33 Informal Notices which were complied with:-

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Cesspool accommodation repaired or provided .... | 1         |
| Drains repairs, altered, renewed or improved.... | 7         |
| Repairs to roofs, (dampness abated).....         | 10        |
| Repairs to roofs, walls, ceilings and chimneys.. | 10        |
| Repairs to doors and windows.....                | 2         |
| Flooding abated.....                             | 1         |
| Hot water system repaired.....                   | 1         |
| Fire Grate repaired.....                         | 1         |
|  | <u>33</u> |

WATER SUPPLY

The Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company is the statutory undertaking which supplies water to the whole of the Council's district, with the exception of the parish of Cholesbury-cum-St.-Leonards, and a portion of the parish of The Lee, which are served by the Bucks. Water Board.

In addition to maintaining a satisfactory quality of water, the Water Undertakings maintained a satisfactory pressure except at one or two high points, and in connection with these, proposals are being formulated to boost the pressure.

During the year the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out further extensions to their mains as follows:- 1009 yards of 2 inch, 724 yards of 3 inch, 2033 yards of 4 inch, 950 yards of 6 inch and 1608 yards of 9 inch.

The Council made a contribution of £100 towards the cost of an extension at Hazlemere which is included in the above.

Also 119½ yards of 3" asbestos main was laid during the year by the Bucks. Water Board.

The following is a table showing the number of dwellings supplied with Main Water, either direct or by means of a standpipe.

The estimates are based on an average of 3.2 persons per house throughout the area. Of those "dwellings" supplied with mains water by means of a standpipe almost all are caravans that are used as permanent residences.

| Parish             | No. of houses with main water supply. |            | Population supplied with mains water. |            |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                    | Direct                                | Per S.P.   | Direct                                | Per S.P.   |
| Amersham           | 4,469                                 | 9          | 14,301                                | 28         |
| Ashley Green       | 224                                   | 26         | 716                                   | 83         |
| Chalfont St. Giles | 1,795                                 | 11         | 5,744                                 | 35         |
| Chalfont St. Peter | 3,506                                 | 25         | 11,219                                | 80         |
| Chartridge         | 345                                   | 94         | 1,103                                 | 301        |
| Chenies            | 330                                   | 1          | 1,055                                 | 3          |
| Chesham Bois       | 645                                   | -          | 2,065                                 | -          |
| Cholesbury         | 259                                   | 35         | 829                                   | 112        |
| Coleshill          | 286                                   | 8          | 916                                   | 25         |
| Latimer            | 283                                   | 5          | 904                                   | 16         |
| The Lee            | 207                                   | 12         | 663                                   | 39         |
| Great Missenden    | 1,683                                 | 17         | 5,385                                 | 54         |
| Little Missenden   | 996                                   | 7          | 3,188                                 | 23         |
| Penn               | 896                                   | 11         | 2,868                                 | 35         |
| Seer Green         | 474                                   | 2          | 1,518                                 | 6          |
| <b>Totals</b>      | <b>16,398</b>                         | <b>263</b> | <b>52,474</b>                         | <b>840</b> |

#### Water Sampling

The following is a summary of water samples taken during the year:-

| <u>Mains Supply</u> | <u>Submitted for</u>      | <u>Submitted for</u>   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>No. Taken:</u>   | <u>Chemical Analysis:</u> | <u>Bacteriological</u> |
|                     |                           | <u>Examination</u>     |
| 67                  | ...                       | 67                     |
| 16                  | ...                       |                        |

All the above reports were satisfactory with the exception of one which was obtained from a storage tank serving an ex-Army Camp which is still in use for temporary housing accommodation. The reason for the unsatisfactory sample was undoubtedly lack of proper cleansing and maintenance of the storage tank. The use of the tank was discontinued. Only two of the ex-army buildings were, at that time, still occupied and a temporary alternative means of supplying water was provided.

Copies of typical reports on the results of the chemical analysis are given in the Appendix to this Report.

#### Other Sources of Supply

| <u>Rainwater Tank</u> | <u>Bore Holes</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>No. Taken</u>      | <u>No. Taken</u>  |
| 6                     | 239               |
| ...                   | ...               |

All these 245 samples were submitted for Bacteriological Examination and 7 were found to be unsatisfactory as under:-

| <u>Rainwater Tank</u> | <u>Bore Holes</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>1</u>              | <u>6</u>          |
| ...                   | ...               |

The 6 unsatisfactory samples were obtained from one of the bacon factories, three of them being slightly suspicious and the other three were strongly suspicious. In last year's Annual Report it was reported that the owners of the bacon factory had been requested to instal a new chlorinating plant. This request was complied with during 1960 and since that time all samples have proved satisfactory.

In the case of the unsatisfactory rain water, a public main is not available, and the users of the water were advised to boil all drinking water.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main centres of population at Amersham-on-the-Hill, Amersham Old Town, Chesham Bois, Little Chalfont, Chalfont St.Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, Great Missenden and Prestwood are sewered, and at the time of the preparation of this Report the scheme for Holmer Green was nearing completion. The whole of the sewage from these areas, with the exception of a small portion of Chesham Bois which is drained to the Chesham U.D.C's Disposal Works, is drained to the Misbourne Valley then by deep gravity sewer to the West Herts Main Drainage Board's works at Maple Cross for treatment. Although most of the seweried areas are drained entirely by gravity, parts of Little Chalfont and Prestwood have to gravitate to pumping stations which, by means of rising mains, pump into the gravity sewers at suitable points.

In the Report for 1959, reference was made to the serious infiltration of sub-soil water into the trunk sewers and that a concentrated effort was being made to locate the source of this infiltration. A limited amount of progress was made but the exceptionally wet summer and autumn seriously interrupted this work. During the short time that the conditions permitted, a limited amount of the relaying of faulty sewers was carried out, and the work on this is continuing.

In the parts of the area which are not seweried, the main method of drainage is by cesspool or by means of a septic tank and soakaway into the chalk, but in several instances developers have been persuaded to instal small sewage works which are taken over and maintained by the Council. The absence of any rivers or streams makes it necessary for the effluent to be disposed of into soakaways but in all cases to safeguard the underground water supplies, the effluent is chlorinated.

Complaints of overflowing cesspools were again far too frequent and these complaints were also no doubt in part due to the exceptionally wet weather. Every effort was made, including an incentive bonus scheme, to deal with applications for the emptying of cesspools as expeditiously as possible, but there was during the year a long waiting period. The recruitment of labour for this type of work was just as difficult as in previous years.

Owing to the increased difficulties in finding suitable sites for the disposal of cesspool contents, the Council, during the year, installed a discharge point on the main sewer at Holmer Green. The contents of the vehicles are virtually discharged into the sewers under seal, and this operation should not give rise to any nuisance. The alternative is to discharge the contents of the vehicles on to agricultural land and, whilst this may not present any great difficulty during the drier time of the year, it is often difficult to get the vehicles any great distance from the highway during the wet season. The discharge of the contents near the public highway can give rise to nuisance conditions.

Complaints were received from time to time concerning the practice of the West Herts Main Drainage Authority of spraying digested sludge onto agricultural land, usually pasture land. The disposal of this digested sludge by the West Herts Main Drainage Authority in this manner is, according to the Board, absolutely essential as they have no other means of disposing of it and if it were not disposed of, the works would have to be closed down. A visit was made to the Board's works and we were given full details of the treatment to which the sludge was subjected, and various sites were visited where the spraying of the sludge by tanker vehicles was being carried out. This matter was reported and discussed at the Public Health Committee and the Committee and the Council accepted the opinion of the Public Health Officers that this practice was not a danger to public health, nor did it give rise to a nuisance within the meaning of the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The refuse collection service was reasonably well-maintained, and in a very large part of the district a weekly collection was maintained over long periods. In the autumn consideration was given by the Council to the use of paper sacks. The Council, whilst being impressed with the hygienic aspects of this method of collection, resolved not to introduce this system, largely on the grounds of expense, but the officers were instructed to keep the matter under review.

The disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping at Amersham but by the end of the year the tip was exhausted. During the year a Public Enquiry was held into a planning application for the installation of a composting plant at the Amersham disposal site. The application was refused by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The whole position of the disposal of refuse became very acute and at the end of the year, negotiations were in an advanced stage for the dumping of all refuse at the Amersham site and for this to be picked up by a contractor and removed for disposal at some disused gravel pits outside this Council's district.

In addition, disused brickworks at Prestwood and Chalfont St. Giles were used but the proper disposal of household refuse by this means is difficult to control, by virtue of the depth and relatively small size of the pits. At the end of the year the owner of the site at Prestwood was given notice of the Council's intention to discontinue the use of the site. It was only at the beginning of the year that a Consent was issued to the owner of the Prestwood site under the Bucks County Council Act, 1957, to deposit refuse collected from outside this Council's area. The Consent was issued subject to compliance with conditions aimed at preventing the outbreak of fires, the breeding of flies and vermin and generally for controlling the disposal of the refuse in accordance with the suggested precautions for controlled tipping issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A similar Consent was issued by the Bucks County Council.

A very poor attempt was made to comply with the conditions of the Consent with the result that from time to time complaints of smell and smoke were received in the Department from nearby residents. Frequent visits were made to the site to advise the owner, with a view to obtaining an improvement in the conditions.

#### HOUSING

The number of properties shown below controlled by the Council at the end of December, 1960, was 2,701, compared with December, 1959 when it was 2,721. The range of properties is as follows:

Housing Accommodation

|                              | <u>Dec. 1959</u> | <u>Dec. 1960</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Pre-war Council houses.....  | 662              | 662              |
| Post-war Council houses..... | 1,957            | 1,963            |
| Prefabricated bungalows..... | 85               | 71               |
| Hodgemoor Estate.....        | 17               | 5                |
|                              | <hr/>            | <hr/>            |
|                              | <u>2,721</u>     | <u>2,701</u>     |

There are two reasons for this decrease. Firstly, there has been a further clearance of the huts on the ex-Army site at Hodgemoor. Secondly, the proposal referred to in last year's report for removing the buildings from one of the Council's two pre-fabricated sites was proceeded with to make way for multi-storey flats.

There are at present approximately 1,200 applicants on the Council's Housing List and obviously the housing shortage is acute.

Many young couples solve their immediate housing problem by buying a caravan. This, in turn, aggravates the situation as many of the people living in caravans are from outside the district and many will, when their family outgrows a caravan, look to this district to provide housing accommodation.

As will be seen later in the report the housing shortage has also delayed the completion of the slum clearance programme. Unfortunately, due very largely to a shortage of land, the problem remains.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 (Discretionary Grants)

A further 54 formal Certificates of Approval to applications for improvement grants were issued for the improvement of 63 dwellings and the total amount of the grants given was £14,093. A summary of the applications approved since the inception of the provisions is given below:-

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Applications</u> | <u>Total Grants</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1950 .....  | 1                   | £ 261               |
| 1951 .....  | 1                   | 269                 |
| 1952 .....  | 2                   | 394                 |
| 1953 .....  | 9                   | 2,465               |
| 1954 .....  | 29                  | 9,802               |
| 1955 .....  | 72                  | 18,225              |
| 1956 .....  | 50                  | 13,440              |
| 1957 .....  | 45                  | 11,473              |
| 1958 .....  | 55                  | 13,961              |
| 1959 .....  | 57                  | 13,424              |
| 1960 .....  | 54                  | 14,093              |

The slight reduction in the number of applications for Discretionary Grants was offset by the number of Standard Grants which were given. Although the number of applications for Discretionary Grants approved was slightly less, it will be seen that the total amount of the grants was greater than last year, because of the increase in building costs.

It is interesting to report that the applicant for the first grant given in 1950 was notified that the 10 years for observance of the conditions had expired, and he was therefore released from the conditions subject to which the grant was given.

### House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants)

During 1960, the first full year during which these provisions were in operation, 37 grants were given for the improvement of 37 dwellings, and these grants totalled £4,210. In most cases the amount given was less than the maximum payable.

### Future Standards of Housing.

The introduction of the Standard Grants for house improvement has increased the number of houses improved during the year, but there are numerous dwellings throughout the area which are still lacking the five standard amenities, and every encouragement is given to landlords to take advantage of the improvement grant provisions.

The majority of applications for both types of grant come from owner/occupiers and the interest shown by landlords is, to say the least, disappointing. It may be the lack of capital or the inadequacy of the permissible return on capital investment in carrying out improvements which are responsible for the reluctance of landlords to carry out schemes of improvement. The more popular opinion seems to be that it is the fact that the cost of repairs does not rank for grant which is responsible, but it has always been the policy of the Council to insist that premises, for which assistance is given, shall, when the work is completed, be in a good state of repair internally and externally.

The statutory standard of fitness, which is now that defined in Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957 is generally accepted as a low one by modern standards. It merely ensures that a house is free from any defects, which render it unfit for habitation - a standard not to be confused with one that requires that not only should the house be fit to live in but that it should have certain basic amenities which make a positive contribution to the general standard of comfort, happiness and health of the persons occupying the house.

It is hoped that before long public opinion will demand that standards of fitness will include the five basic amenities for which standard grants were introduced by the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, namely:-

- (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom;
- (b) a wash-hand basin;
- (c) a supply of hot water to bath, basin and sink;
- (d) a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling;
- (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

### Housing Act, 1957

#### Slum Clearance Programme

The summary given overleaf of the position at the 31st December, 1960 shows that the programme submitted in 1955 for completion during the year was not, in fact, completed. This is not surprising when one reads in another part of the report that during the year only six new Council houses were completed. With little or no prospect of being able to rehouse the tenants of the sub-standard dwellings, the making of further Demolition Orders only causes embarrassment to the tenants and to the Council. The worst houses have been dealt with and many of the 23 in connection with which no action had been taken by the end of the year are occupied by elderly tenants who would, in any case, be very reluctant to face up to the upheaval of moving to alternative accommodation, particularly if that new accommodation is far removed from their neighbours, many of whom assist them in various ways.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Demolished or Demolition commenced .....   | 102 |
| Subject to a Demolition Order and now vacant but not demolished .....  | 29  |
| Subject to a Demolition Order, now vacant, but under reconstruction or reconstructed or to be reconstructed                          | 12  |
| Subject to a Demolition Order, but still occupied .....  | 21  |
| Subject to a Closing Order and now vacant .....  | 7   |
| Subject to a Closing Order and still occupied .....  | -   |
| Subject to an Undertaking either (a) to use for purposes other than human habitation or (a) to render fit for human occupation ..... | 30  |
| Improved and Rendered fit by Informal Action .....   | 20  |
| Rendered fit by formal action .....  | 25  |
| Proposals pending for Reconstruction, formalities postponed.....   | 8   |
| Now used for purposes other than human habitation, voluntarily.....  | 7   |
| No action to date .....  | 23  |
|  | 284 |

#### Rent Act, 1957

During the year three Certificates as to remedying of defects were issued following Undertakings given but not complied with. One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year and in this case an Undertaking was given by the Landlord following the service of a Notice of Intention to issue a Certificate of Disrepair.

From the above it will be apparent that there was very little activity under the Rent Act, which leads us to the conclusion that the tenants' rights are not widely known or, if they are, the tenants are for some reason or another reluctant to take advantage of them.

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

On the 29th August, the above Act came into operation and altered in a number of ways the administrative control of caravans. All persons who, at the coming into operation of the new Act, held licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, to station and use a moveable dwelling, were invited to make an application under the new Act. The Council resolved that the Public Health Department should receive these applications in the first instance, and then transfer them to the Planning Authority through the Surveyor's Department, with a report on the public health aspects of each site.

Very few of these Licensees had the benefit of a planning approval for an unexpired period of six months, consequently by the end of the year very few, if any, Site Licences under the new Act had been issued. Under the new Act the Planning Authority were given a statutory period of six months from the date of the application in which to determine applications for which no planning permission had previously been given.

This new Act has greatly strengthened the Council's powers to insist on reasonable standards on caravan sites. Obviously, - the residential caravan is here to stay and for many single persons, and even small families, a caravan of suitable size can provide a reasonable alternative to living in rooms or with relatives.

One is less happy about those families with two or more children, living in a touring caravan in overcrowded conditions. The lack of privacy for the adult members of the family and the lack of playing space for the children particularly in bad weather are conditions ideally suited to increase family tension and the unhappiness and illness which can result from same.

It may well be that such a family is better off in a small caravan than in an equally small room in a tenement. However, it serves to underline the continuing housing shortage and the need for an urgent National solution to this problem.

During the year the Council purchased a site at Whelpley Hill with planning permission for a total of 76 caravans, and the Surveyor's Department were given instructions to prepare detailed plans, etc. The purchase of this site by the Council became widely known and we received a number of applications for standings, but in view of the Council's intention to carry out extensive works of improvement it was considered desirable to strictly limit the number of caravans to be allowed on the site, pending completion of the site works.

The site consists of about six acres on the verge of the Bovingdon Aerodrome and is, in fact, part of the disused wartime aircraft disposal point. The intention of the Council is to make it a Model Site and the amenities to be provided include a dual-purpose shed for each standing consisting of a store and water closet; a separate electric supply to each standing; a water standpipe to each six caravans; a centrally situated ablution block containing baths and a Laundrette. A properly designed sewage disposal plant is to be constructed as no public sewer is available. A full-time warden is to be appointed who will be housed in a pre-fabricated bungalow, and he will also be invited to run a general shop which will also be in a separate pre-fabricated building. The total cost of the project, including the purchase of the land, will be in the region of £40,000 and the economic inclusive rent will be about 25/- per week per standing.

...     ...     ...

The owner of a site which was not licensed, and for which planning permission was refused, continued to allow the number of caravans to increase rapidly and an embarrassing position will undoubtedly arise.

Another type of caravanner who causes great difficulty is the diddy-coid who, particularly during the winter months, earns his living by collecting and disposing of scrap iron and rags. They neither have, nor do they need, a permanent standing, but if allowed they will, when they come across a suitable site, stay for a month or two.

Many of this type had to be removed from the ex-army camp site at Hodgemoor, where conditions are, from their point of view, more or less ideal; but the land is situated in the Green Belt and is not licensed.

## RODENT INFESTATION AND DESTRUCTION

The Council continued the policy of undertaking contracts in respect of agricultural land and business premises. The number of contracts renewed being 78 and the number of new contracts entered into being 10. The contract, in all cases, is for one year with a minimum of 4 treatments.

A summary of the work done is given below:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| No. of premises inspected for rats, mice and glis-glis ... | 1051     |
| No of treatments to private premises for rats and mice ... | 406      |
| No. of treatments to business premises for rats and mice.. | 42       |
| No. of treatments to premises under contract for rats and  |          |
|  | mice.... |
|  | 436      |
| No. of Wasps' Nests destroyed.....                         | 288      |
| Swarms of Bees.....  | 6        |
| No. of glis-glis caught.....                               | 31       |

There was an increase in the number of premises inspected for rodents compared with the previous year. It is the opinion of the Rodent Officer that many of the complaints that we receive arise from the practice of many householders of putting out food for birds. This practice no doubt is commendable during the winter months, but is quite unnecessary during the greater part of the year, and is, in fact, undesirable because it encourages rats.

There was again an increase in the number of wasps' nests destroyed from 272 in 1959 to 288. Although not a statutory duty under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council has agreed to undertake this work on a pre-payment basis as no other service is available to the rate-payers.

The Chesham Bois Sewerage System was test-baited for rats and was found to be free from infestation. This work was carried out at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOODFOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20.

The Bucks County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, samples milk produced on farms in this district. These samples are sent for bacteriological examination primarily for Tubercl Bacilli. The examination also reveals the presence of brucella organisms. When such organisms are isolated the District Medical Officer of Health is informed.

During the year, two such reports were received. The milk produced on the farms was already being sent for pasteurisation, and no further action was necessary.

Milk Sampling.

71 samples of T.T. milk, 171 of pasteurised and T.T./pasteurised milk and 3 of sterilised milk were obtained and submitted for examination. Of these, 14 samples failed the methylene blue test and 1 sample failed the phosphatase test.

In all cases of unsatisfactory reports, active steps were taken immediately to ascertain the cause.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regs., 1949.Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 33 Licences were issued under the above Regulations, 10 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested", 13 to use the designation "Pasteurised" and 10 to use the designation "Sterilised".

In addition to the above, 19 Supplementary Licences were issued, 7 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested", 6 to use the designation "Pasteurised" and 6 to use the designation "Sterilised".

The issue of these Licences will, in future, be the responsibility of the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and it will presumably be the responsibility of that Authority to ensure that the conditions attaching to the Licences are observed.

Ice-Cream.

124 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as under:-

|              | <u>Grade 1</u> | <u>Grade 2</u> | <u>Grade 3</u> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SATISFACTORY | ...            | ...            | 122            |

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Inspectors continued their routine inspections of premises which are subject to the above Regulations and Informal Notices were served in cases where contravention of the regulations was found.

526 visits have been made to all types of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

Schools

During the year, the kitchen and canteen facilities of the Local Education Authority's schools were inspected and in cases where contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, the attention of the Education Authority was drawn to the requirements. In some cases the work required involved structural alterations or improvements to the premises. The fullest co-operation was obtained from the Education Authority and in the case of some of the more major requirements, provision had already been made in the current year's estimates. The standard of hygiene both of the premises and of the equipment was good, particularly in the more modern schools, and the School Meals' Organisers and their staffs are to be complimented on the standard obtained.

Utensil Swabs

60 sets of utensil swabs were taken at various kitchens of canteens, cafes, hotels, etc. In nine cases adverse reports were received. Advice is given in such cases on the washing-up technique.

Sections 2 and 8

Various complaints were again received of foreign objects in food, including a penny embedded in a loaf of bread. All such complaints were reported to the Council's Public Health Committee, but no legal proceedings were instituted, for the reason that the Council was satisfied that the causes of the complaints were accidental and not due to negligence. Other complaints concerned food which was stale, mouldy or sour. Most of these complaints arise from improper attention being given to rotation of stocks. In these cases it is often difficult to establish the party responsible, e.g., in the case of mould it may be the fault of the manufacturer or wholesaler, or it may be the fault of the retailer. In all these cases the circumstances are fully investigated. Advice and, where necessary, warnings are given to all persons whom the Council consider might have been negligent.

Section 16

A further 15 premises were registered for the storage and/or sale of ice cream, making a total in the register of 154 premises registered, 138 for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice-cream, 15 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, and one for cooking chicken.

The Meat Inspection (Authorised Officers) Regulations, 1960

The above Regulations authorise the appointment of a new type of Meat Inspector and in a district of this nature where there are two bacon factories, one of which has a through-put of over 1,000 pigs per week, the Council was advised that the Regulations were particularly appropriate. Authority was given for the appointment of one of the new type of Meat Inspectors.

The Royal Society of Health has introduced a new examination for inspectors of meat and food, specifically for persons who are not qualified Public Health Inspectors, and any person who obtains this new certificate can be appointed as an authorised officer for the examination and seizure of meat under the new Regulations.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the two bacon factories, and one private slaughterhouse, together with details of the post mortem inspection. The total amount of meat condemned at these slaughterhouses was 52 tons 6 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs. and the total offal condemned was 10 tons 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lbs.

|  | Cattle<br>exclud-<br>ing<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs   |
|--|----------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| No. killed and inspected   | 344                              | 41   | 24     | 1,179                 | 61,576 |
| <u>All diseases except</u><br><u>Tuberculosis</u>                                |                                  |      |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcases condemned   | -                                | -    | -      | 1                     | 255    |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned                               | 87                               | 21   | -      | 86                    | 5,550  |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 25.3                             | 51.2 | -      | 7.3                   | 9.4    |
| <u>Tuberculosis Only</u>   |                                  |      |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcases condemned   | -                                | -    | -      | -                     | 16     |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned                               | -                                | -    | -      | -                     | 2,655  |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis                    | -                                | -    | -      | -                     | 4.3    |

Other Foodstuffs Condemned:-

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Meat Pies .....   | 4 only                   |
| Pig Kidneys ..... | 280 lbs.                 |
| Wet Fish .....    | 63 lbs.                  |
| Poultry .....     | 1,898 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. |

The 1,898 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of poultry was voluntarily surrendered at a poultry packing establishment and this, together with the tinned foods, was removed to the Council's Refuse Disposal Site where it was immediately covered.

Tinned Goods:-

|                  |        |      |
|------------------|--------|------|
| Vegetables ..... | 5,626  | tins |
| Fruit .....      | 10,698 | "    |
| Meat .....       | 1,653  | "    |
| Milk .....       | 1,178  | "    |
| Soup .....       | 1,393  | "    |
| Fish .....       | 873    | "    |
| Jams .....       | 130    | "    |

All edible meat and offal for which there is no retail sale is suitably treated on the premises for the extraction of fats. The condemned meat and offal and other useless refuse from the slaughterhouse operations are removed by a contractor and is used for the manufacture of soap or for animal feeding-stuffs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958.Report on Slaughtering Facilities.

In accordance with the requirements of the above Act, the Report on the existing and probable future requirements of the district for slaughterhouse facilities and the facilities which are, or are likely to become, available to meet those requirements, was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the date recommended for the construction regulations to apply to all slaughterhouses in the district was 1st October, 1961. The Report included the two existing bacon factories where pigs only are slaughtered and the new slaughterhouse for all animals to be erected at Chalfont St. Giles. The Council stated in the Report that the facilities at these two bacon factories, together with the new slaughterhouse, would be adequate for the needs of the butchers in this area.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933/1954

|   |             |    |
|---|-------------|----|
| No. of Slaughterman's Licences renewed: | 16.         |    |
| No. of New Licences issued              | ...     ... | 6. |

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

|                        |             |    |
|------------------------|-------------|----|
| No. of Licences issued | ...     ... | 2. |
|------------------------|-------------|----|

GAME ACT, 1831

|                             |             |    |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----|
| No. of Game Licences issued | ...     ... | 9. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----|

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

|                            |             |     |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----|
| No. of Licences renewed    | ...     ... | 112 |
| No. of new Licences issued | ...     ... | 2   |

A total of 205 inspections were made under the Regulations.

RAG, FLOCK, AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

|                            |             |   |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| No. of Premises registered | ...     ... | 3 |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|

BUCKS. COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957

Under Section 52 of the above Act, all persons carrying on the business of a Hairdresser or Barber's Shop are required to register with the Local Authority and the number of persons and premises registered at 31st December was 30.

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

F.G. Caudery, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX IFACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises<br>(1)  | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(2) | Number of               |                           |                                |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  |                                 | Inspec-<br>tions<br>(3) | Written<br>notices<br>(4) | Occupiers<br>prosecuted<br>(5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2<br>3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced<br>by Local Authorities .....                       | 6                               | 12                      | -                         | -                              |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i)<br>in which Section 7 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority .....                       | 131                             | 60                      | 5                         | -                              |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section<br>7 is enforced by the Local<br>Authority (excluding outworkers'<br>premises) ..... | -                               | -                       | -                         | -                              |
| Total .....  | 137                             | 72                      | 5                         | -                              |

## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| Particulars<br>(1)  | Number of cases in which defects<br>were found |                 |   | Number of<br>Cases in<br>which prose-<br>cutions were<br>instituted<br>(6) |   |
|---|--|-----------------|---|--|---|
|   | Found<br>(2)                                   | Remedied<br>(3) | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(4) | By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(5)  |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)   | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) .....  | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Unreasonable temperature<br>(S.3) .....   | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Inadequate ventilation<br>(S.4) .....   | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Ineffective drainage of<br>floors (S.6) .....   | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)   |  |                 |   |  |   |
| (a) Insufficient .....  | 1  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or<br>defective .....  | 4  | 4               | -                                       | -  | - |
| (c) Not separate<br>for sexes .....   | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| Other offences against the<br>Act (not including offences<br>relating to Outwork) ..... | -  | -               | -                                       | -  | - |
| TOTAL .....   | 5  | 4               | -                                       | -  | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACTOutwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature<br>of<br>Work<br>(1)                                      | Section 110   |  |  | Section 111   |                          |                          |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | No. of<br>outworkers<br>in August<br>list<br>required<br>by Section<br>110 (1) (c)<br>(2) | No. of<br>Cases of<br>default<br>in send-<br>ing lists<br>to the<br>Council<br>(3) | No. of<br>prosecu-<br>tions<br>for<br>failure<br>to supply<br>lists<br>(4) | No. of<br>instances<br>of work<br>in<br>unwhole-<br>some<br>premises<br>(5) | Notices<br>served<br>(6) | Prose-<br>cutions<br>(7) |
| Wearing Apparel:<br>Making, etc.,<br>Cleaning and<br>Washing ... | 171   | -  | -  | -   | -                        | -                        |
| Curtains and<br>furniture<br>hangings ...                        | -   | -  | -  | -   | -                        | -                        |
| Brush making   | 1   | -  | -  | -   | -                        | -                        |
| TOTAL  | 172   | -  | -  | -   | -                        | -                        |

APPENDIX IIIWATER SUPPLYChemical Analysis.

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from the four different sources of mains water:-

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination

|                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 18th May 1960<br>Ref. M. 7 | Sample from tap at :<br>Village Stores, Chenies.                      | ( Rickmansworth & Uxbridge<br>Valley Water Company's<br>supply) |
| 18th May 1960<br>Ref. M. 8 | Sample from tap at:<br>Stone Maternity Hospital<br>Chalfont St. Giles | ( ditto )   |
| 18th May 1960<br>Ref. M. 6 | Sample from tap at :<br>Two Dells Road,<br>Ashley Green               | ( ditto )   |
| 18th May 1960<br>Ref. M. 9 | Sample from tap at :<br>The Shack, Swan Bottom,<br>The Lee            | ( Bucks Water Board<br>supply)                                  |

Sample Reference Nos.

|   | <u>M.7</u> | <u>M.8</u>               | <u>M.6</u> | <u>M.9</u> |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Appearance  |            | All clear and colourless |            |            |
| Reaction (pH)   | 7.0        | 7.0                      | 7.3        | 7.8        |
|   |            | Parts per million        |            |            |
| Free Chlorine   | Nil        | Nil                      | 0.08       | Nil        |
| Total Solids  | 248        | 268                      | 296        | 150        |
| Loss of Ignition  | -          | -                        | -          | -          |
| Chlorine in Chlorides                                   | 20         | 21                       | 19         | 18         |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                                     | 0.003      | Nil                      | Nil        | Nil        |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                                     | Nil        | Nil                      | Nil        | 0.007      |
| Nitrate Nitrogen  | 3.5        | 3.0                      | 5.0        | 3.5        |
| Nitrite Nitrogen  | Nil        | Nil                      | Nil        | Nil        |
| Oxygen absorbed from<br>permanganate<br>3 hrs. @ 98°F.) | Nil        | Nil                      | Nil        | Nil        |
| Hardness, Temporary                                     | 202        | 205                      | 222        | 85         |
| Permanent   | 10         | 25                       | 12         | 19         |
| Total   | 212        | 230                      | 234        | 104        |
| Metals-Lead, Copper,<br>Zinc                            |            | Not found                |            |            |

The Public Analyst is of the opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



